

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01635 121441Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01 SP-02
IGA-02 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 /088 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3628

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1635

DEPT ALSO PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SWEL, LE
SUBJECT: CRS IN LEBANON

1. IN MEETING WITH MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS RIZK ON
APRIL 4, AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
(CRS) HAD RECENTLY SAID GOL WAS REQUIRING THAT CRS TURN
OVER ALL ITS GOODS AND MONEY, EVEN IF PRIVATELY RAISED,
DIRECTLY TO THE HIGH RELIEF COMMISSION FOR DISTRIBUTION. CRS
ASSERTED IT NOT INTERESTED IN OPERATING UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.

2. RIZK REPLIED THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN MISUNDERSTANDING.
CRS WANTED TO OPERATE WITH COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE. CRS, FOR
EXAMPLE, WISHED TO CHOOSE UNILATERALLY WHICH VILLAGES WOULD
RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSING REPAIRS, AS WELL AS WHICH
PEOPLE WOULD GET PL-480, TITLE II, FOOD. THIS WAS UNACCEPT-
ABLE, RIZK SAID, AND GOL INSISTED ON RIGHT TO COORDINATE
RELIEF ACTIVITIES. CRS SHOULD CHOOSE NEEDY VILLAGES AND
PEOPLE IN COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY SINCE
GOL -- AT CRS REQUEST -- WAS HELPING WITH HOUSING PROJECTS AND
PAYING FOR ALL IN-COUNTRY STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION OF
PL-480, TITLE II, COMMODITIES.

3. RIZK ALSO SAID THAT CRS WANTED TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01635 121441Z

BETWEEN GOL AND CARITAS. GOL, HOWEVER, SHOULD DEAL DIRECTLY
WITH CARITAS, AND NOT THROUGH CRS, ON RELIEF MATTERS, RIZK
EMPHASIZED.

4. GOL DID NOT OBJECT IF CRS RAISED PRIVATE FUNDS IN UNITED
STATES FOR DONATION TO SPECIFIED TOWN IN LEBANON. GOL
ASKED ONLY THAT IT BE INFORMED OF PLANS TO MAKE SUCH DONA-

TIONS, SO THAT IT COULD OFFSET THEM BY SIMILAR HELP TO TOWNS
OF ANOTHER CONFESSION. (COMMENT: I.E., GOL ASSUMES ALL CRS
SPONSORED DONATIONS WILL GO TO CHRISTIAN VILLAGES. END COMMENT)

5. RIZK REMARKED THAT DURING FIGHTING, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
OPERATED INDEPENDENTLY BECAUSE THERE WAS NO EFFECTIVE
GOVERNMENT. NOW THAT SHOOTING HAD STOPPED IN MOST AREAS,
HOWEVER, GOL WAS REESTABLISHING ITS AUTHORITY. "WE ARE NOT
ASKING TO STOP OR COMMAND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, ONLY TO
COORDINATE THEM." RIZK CONCLUDED THAT GOL WOULD ADHERE TO
THIS POLICY, SINCE "WE ARE NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF PROMOTING
CONFESSIONALISM."
PARKER

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Message Attributes

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